

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: to be inserted after the title, but before the first paragraph: "This is a national stage entry of PCT/JP05/00031, filed on Jan. 5, 2005. This also claims a foreign priority to JP Ser. No. 2004-004861, filed Jan. 9, 2004."

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding claim 1, Applicant's amendment differentiates the claimed subject matter from the prior art for the reasons stated in Applicant's 4/28/2009 remarks. In particular, Applicant's claimed invention differs because the prior art does not teach or suggest that at least one lead wire extends through the *smaller diameter portion* (emphasis added) of the elastic seal member. Regarding claim 6, Applicant's arguments in the 4/38/2009 remarks are persuasive. Amended claim 7 differs from the prior art in the "smaller diameter portion disposed at the more rear end side than the main body portion and smaller in outer diameter than the main body portion, and the space is provided between the rear end of the tubular metallic member and the smaller diameter portion," in addition to all the other limitations of the claim. Claim 9 is allowed because the prior

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art does not teach or suggest that the space is formed between the larger diameter portion and the elastic seal member, in combination with each other aspect of the claim. Claim 10 is allowable because the prior art does not teach or suggest that the elastic seal member protrudes outward from the rear end of the tubular metallic member along the axial direction by .6mm or more.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see 7-10, filed 4/28/2009, with respect to claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1, 6, 7, 9 and 10 has been withdrawn.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gunnar J. Gissel whose telephone number is (571)270-3411. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571)272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/GJG/

6/19/2009

/Hezron Williams/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856